



TAXPAYERS UNITED MICHIGAN FOUNDATION

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Bill McMaster, State Chairman (Volunteer)

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Tax Deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3). Founded 1976.

"Helping educate grassroots taxpayers how to defend and control their Constitutional Rights despite exploitation by units of government."

EXCERPTS FROM TESTIMONY GIVEN OCTOBER 12, 2011 TO THE SENATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IN LANSING, MI BY BILL MCMASTER, STATE CHAIRMAN (VOLUNTEER), TAXPAYERS UNITED MICHIGAN FOUNDATION, CELL (248) 798-8501 (MIRS REFERS TO MCMASTER AS THE "CHAMPION OF THE HEADLEE AMENDMENT"):

Gov. Snyder's Public/Private Bridge Partnership Prohibited by MI Constitution

"Gov. Snyder continues to waltz grassroots taxpayers around his mulberry bush. His statewide political campaign to build a \$2.2 billion Government Bridge has entered the deceptive propaganda stage. Yesterday he had longtime Michigan Chamber of Commerce Attorney Richard McLellan testify before the Senate Economic Development Committee that Senate Bills No. 410 & 411 do not prohibit the Legislature from creating a Public/Private Partnership (PPP) to build a proposed Detroit-Windsor Government Bridge.

"McLellan testified that Gov. Snyder had phoned him the day before and asked him to submit a list of legal citations to the Michigan Senate Committee which would prove the Legislature has the legal authority to create a full faith and credit bond issue needed to partially build the Government Bridge as alleged in the pending Senate bills.

"I sat there in amazement as McLellan entered his 7-page legal assignment from the Governor into the public record.

"IT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY DICK MCLELLAN, GOV. SNYDER, AND THE MI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TODAY COMPLETELY OMIT ANY RECOGNITION OF THE 1978 HEADLEE TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT IN OUR CONSTITUTION PROHIBITING THE LEGISLATIVE PASSAGE OF SENATE BILLS 410 & 411.

"Also, the supposedly objective and trusted research of the Senate Fiscal Agency's Analysis of Senate Bills 410 & 411 completely ignored the existence of the Headlee Amendment protecting grassroots taxpayers from unconstitutional expansion of State Government and the assessment of new tax obligations without statewide voter approval.

"An example of the intentional deception being propagated by the Snyder Administration is the continued reference to the Mackinac Bridge Authority as a model for creating a new Government Bridge Authority under Article 9, Section 14 of the Michigan Constitution. Proponents of the Detroit-Windsor Government Bridge would have you believe that the Michigan Constitution allows State borrowing of money by issuing full faith and credit notes to be transferred to the 'functions of highway department' (M-DOT).

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However, the text of the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment supersedes the authority for the Mackinac Bridge created in 1954 and prohibits such Public/Private Partnership 'authority' from being illegally applied to build the proposed Detroit-Windsor Government Bridge. Other provisions McLellan cited are similarly overridden or not applicable.

"I've known Dick McLellan as an honorable person since we shared the Detroit headquarters for the Romney/Milliken/Griffin Campaigns in 1966. Dick Headlee was managing the combined headquarters for then-Gov. Romney. Dick McLellan was the campaign car driver for Lt. Gov. Bill Milliken and I was assistant press secretary for Bob Griffin (during and after his successful campaign for US Senate).

"In 1977 and 1978, Dick Headlee (deceased 2004) was Campaign Chairman for the successful 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment, President of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. and Chairman of the MI Chamber of Commerce (Jim Barrett was President). I was Campaign Director and President of McMaster Marketing & PR.

"Dick McLellan was a rising star in the State Capitol legal community and well acquainted with the will of the people contained in the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment.

"We grassroots taxpayers in Taxpayers United would not have won statewide support of majority voters without the support of the MI Chamber of Commerce. McLellan knows that.

"The Headlee Amendment in our Michigan Constitution still protects taxpayers. I and other citizen volunteers in Taxpayers United have been actively defending our Tax Limitation Amendment since its inception. We expect Gov. Snyder and all politicians to respect their oath of office and uphold the Headlee Amendment defined in our Michigan's Constitution as the unaltered will of the people.

"All of the provisions of the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment can be found under 'Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment'. Michigan Constitution, Article IX, Sections 6 and 25-33. A hard copy can be obtained through Google from the Michigan Legislative Council.

"According to Michigan Election Law, grassroots taxpayers must be given 70 days advance notice of Gov. Snyder's/Legislators' proposed ballot language before residents can exercise our Constitutional Right to vote Yes or No.

"The Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment guarantees **NO NEW OR INCREASED TAXES WITHOUT STATEWIDE VOTER APPROVAL**. That means Gov. Snyder is also prohibited from establishing new units of government called 'Authorities' or Public/Private Partnerships (PPPs) without a vote of grassroots taxpayers.

"Gov. Snyder is trying to convince Legislators and grassroots taxpayers that Senate Bills 410 & 411 **WILL NOT INCREASE TAXES OR COST TAXPAYERS ANY MONEY TO BUILD THE DETROIT_WINDSOR GOVERNMENT BRIDGE**.

"That's not true!

"But Gov. Snyder and similarly inclined politicians in state, county, city, village and township governments are willfully attempting to violate the Constitutional Right of Michigan grassroots taxpayers to vote Yes or No on any and all new or increased tax proposals.

"Without a statewide vote of the people, the two Senate Bills being considered to allow the creation of a Public/Private Partnership to build a Government Bridge between Detroit and Windsor cannot be legally imposed by Legislators and Gov. Snyder. IT WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY NULL AND VOID.

"There is precedence for the Michigan Supreme Court upholding provisions in the Headlee Amendment blocking a new Government Bridge.

"On May 4, 2006, the Michigan Supreme Court ordered the Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority (DARTA) to be immediately dissolved, which it did, because Defendants including Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and the City of Detroit, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Macomb County Commission Chairman, Regional Transit Coordinating Council (John Hertel) and Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) blatantly violated the Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment in our Michigan Constitution by illegally creating a new layer of government with alleged taxing power without grassroots taxpayers' voted approval.

"The Michigan Supreme Court ordered all of the Defendants in the 2006 Case –most of whom are listed by Gov. Snyder as supporters of his Detroit-Windsor Government Bridge – to immediately dissolve. They complied.

"For your reference, the Case numbers for AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES ("AFSCME") vs. DEFENDANTS CITY OF DETROIT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DETROIT, WAYNE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHAIRPERSON, OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE, REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATING COUNCIL, and SUBURBAN MOBILITY AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION, are SUPREME COURT: 129278, COURT OF APPEALS: 253592.

"The statewide grassroots citizens in Taxpayers United frankly did not expect this Republican-dominated Administration to impose a Government Bridge in competition with the Ambassador Bridge Company's American free enterprise for a privately financed Twin Bridge as a top priority for solving Michigan's serious economic problems.

"Further, we do not understand why our elected officials expect non-profit organization Taxpayers United to sue them for willfully violating the State Constitution they swore to uphold when they took their oath of office just 10 months ago.

"Michigan's Unemployment Rate is 23% worse than President Obama's 9.1% national average and should be the top priority. And the devastating impact in Michigan of Obamacare and the 500,000 Michigan families being evicted this week from their homes by Michigan's cruel Tax Delinquent Properties Act, Public Act 123 of 1999, have failed to be addressed by the Legislature during your distraction with the Government Bridge."

Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation was founded in 1976 by Dick Headlee (deceased 2004) and Bill McMaster to successfully win statewide voter approval of the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment. It has evolved into a tax deductible 501 (c) (3) under the IRS code as a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational foundation helping educate grassroots taxpayers how to defend and control their Constitutional Rights despite exploitation by unethical public officials and units of government.

Bill McMaster is still President of national award winning McMaster Marketing & PR he founded in 1968.
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